

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 EUR-12 EA-10 AID-05

COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

HA-05 IO-13 /153 W

-----104821 151512Z /72

R 151419Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 559

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF

SUBJECT: FRIENDS OF THE CONGO

1. PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO MUST BE VERY HAPPY TODAY IN HAVANA, SINCE THE CUBANS NOW REMAIN AMONG VERY FEW "PARTNERS" CONGOLESE BELIEVE THEY HAVE. YHOMBY HAS BEEN SHABBILY TREATED RECENTLY BY THE SOVIETS AND BULGARIANS (BRAZZAVILLE 567 & 544), AND CONGOLESE HAVE AN OPEN FEUD WITH ROMANIANS (BRAZZAVILLE 541). THEY RATHER LIKE THE EAST GERMANS, BUT ADMIT FREELY THAT THEY KNOW WHAT A SHABBY REGIME IT IS (BRAZZAVILLE 550). THEY KNOW, TOO, THAT NORTH KOREA HAS NOTHING REALLY TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF AID ALTHOUGH UPCOMING VISIT THERE APPEALS TO RADICALS, AND GOCB "HARDLINERS" ARE CAUTIOUS ABOUT CHINESE, GIVEN MOSCOW-PEKING EQUATION (BRAZZAVILLE 341). YUGOSLAVIA GIVES NOTHING BUT ADVICE, AND IS SO TREATED. YUGOSLAV EFFORTS TO TALK UP "NON-ALIGNMENT" HAVE GOTTEN NO WHERE (BRAZZAVILLE 77 A-3).

2. AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES, CONGOLESE LIKE PRESENCE OF AND DOING BUSINESS WITH (DIPLOMATICALLY NON-RESIDENT) CANADIANS, FRG AND US, BUT REMAIN LEERY OF
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COMMON MARKET AND OF EX-COLONIAL POWERS, FRANCE AND BELGIUM (BRAZZAVILLE 570 & 454). THE ITALIANS ALSO ARE SUSPECT BECAUSE OF HIGH-HANDED DEALINGS OF AGIP.

3. AMONG AFRICAN STATES, CONGO ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE (BRAZZAVILLE 381), BUT YHOMBY IS NOT GETTING ALONG NEARLY AS WELL AS HIS PREDECESSOR WITH GABON

OR SENEGAL (LIBREVILLE 654 & BRAZZAVILLE 77 A-1).
CONGOLESE ARE CAUTIOUS OVER WEALTHY NIGERIA, AND
DISSATISFIED WITH MEAGER ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM
MPLA ANGOLA, FOR WHICH THEY CORRECTLY BELIEVE THEY HAVE
DONE SO MUCH. THEY AWAIT REPAYMENT OF DEBTS FROM CAE;
GUINEA IS AN IDEOLOGICAL FRIEND ONLY. GOCB TAKES
WHATEVER AID IT CAN FROM ALGERIA, BUT AT THE COST OF
BECOMING INVOLVED IN FAR-FLUNG VENTURES SUCH AS
SUPPORTING F-POLISARIO AND CONDEMNING THE SADAT
INITIATIVE (BRAZZAVILLE 10).

4. IN SUM, WHILE YHOMBY CULTIVATES GOOD RELATIONS
WITH ALL, HIS CURRENT BALANCE SHEET OF FRIENDS ISN'T
VERY IMPRESSIVE.
KATZEN

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